

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim-~~1~~ 4, wherein the diverting device is a separate component of the apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim-~~1~~ 4, wherein at least some of either of or both the first and second diverting elements comprise diverting rollers which are each mounted rotatably around an axle.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing sheet material, comprising a transport device for transporting single sheets of the sheet material, the transport device including a diverting device for diverting the transport direction of the single sheets, the diverting device comprising one or more opposite first and second diverting elements between which the sheets are transported through for diversion, and wherein the diverting device comprises means for transporting sheets between the diverting elements without jamming;

~~The apparatus according to claim-1,~~ wherein at least one of the diverting elements has a roughened surface with depressions of at least 1 mm.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim-~~1~~ 4, wherein the first diverting element rotates for diverting the sheet material, and the first diverting element has an elastic surface which, upon rotation, is deformed complementarily to the form of the second diverting element.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim-~~1~~ 4, wherein either of or both the first and second diverting element has a paddle wheel with outwardly protruding paddles arranged to pull along the sheet material, by rotation of the paddle

wheel, toward a point in the transport path of the diverting device where the sheet material is diverted.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein the diverting device is a transport gate, arranged so that mechanical displacement of a gate element permits the sheets to be diverted alternatively into different transport paths.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the gate element and the other diverting elements are disposed in different planes.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing sheet material, comprising a transport device for transporting single sheets of the sheet material, the transport device including a diverting device for diverting the transport direction of the single sheets, the diverting device comprising one or more opposite first and second diverting elements between which the sheets are transported through for diversion, and wherein the diverting device comprises means for transporting sheets between the diverting elements without jamming;

~~The apparatus according to claim 1,~~ the apparatus further including a smoothing device[[,]] arranged so as to pull apart the sheet material in a direction perpendicular to the transport direction immediately before diversion in the diverting device.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the smoothing device is part of the diverting device.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the smoothing device comprises conically formed pressure rollers with an elastic surface.